



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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ROMAINE GILLILAND
Director

JANE GRUNER
Administrator

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Assistive Technology Council (AT Council)

Date and Time of Meeting: December 9, 2014
1:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held and video conferenced at the following locations:

Reno: Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
999 Pyramid Way
Sparks, NV 89431
(775) 353-3599

Las Vegas: Rebuilding All Goals Efficiently (RAGE)
2901 El Camino Ave., Suite 102
Las Vegas, NV 89102
(702) 333-1038

To join this meeting by phone, dial 1-888-251-2909 then enter Access Code 8985078 when prompted.

Minutes

I. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

A quorum being present, Mr. Youngs called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Members Present: Frida Aizenman, Hentjie Apag, Havander Davis, Victoria Essner, Thomas Kearns, Jesse Leaman, Mechelle Merrill, Brian Patchett, John Rosenlund, Scott Sauer, Scott Youngs

Members Absent: Rena Smith

Public Present: Janet Belcove-Shalin, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center; Alexandria Colun, Easter Seals; Cheri Day, Nevada PEP

Aging and Disability Services Division Staff Present: Diane Scully

- II. Approval of the Minutes from the June 10, 2014 Meeting (For Possible Action)
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Patchett made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Mr. Rosenlund seconded; motion carried.

- III. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

There were no comments from the public.

- IV. Report on the National AT Act Entities Conference held July 14-15, 2014 in Washington DC (see attached report)
John Rosenlund, ADSD Representative

The Conference was co-sponsored by the Association of AT Act Programs (ATAP), the Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance (CATADA) and the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Catalyst Project. Mr. Rosenlund it was very interesting, with a lot of updating since Congress just passed the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This moved AT and Rehabilitation Act programs under the Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Rosenlund noted that with the drop in prices for iPads and similar devices, there's been a shift from providing devices to training people how to get the most out of them.

Mr. Patchett asked if funding was discussed. Mr. Rosenlund said no, and there was indication of when it would be addressed.

Mr. Sauer voiced his concern about iPad usage in schools instead of devices like the Dynavox, explaining school districts are using iPads and they tend towards one word/short phrase answers which don't help in teaching children language the way a Dynavox does. Mr. Rosenlund said there are applications (apps) available to meet those needs. Ms. Essner suggested the app, VIA, that lists apps available to assist with various disabilities. Mr. Rosenlund said through Easter Seals and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Assistive Technology Collaborative, there is a lot of information on what's available. Mr. Youngs said the team approach is critical in getting the proper AT for each person. Mr. Sauer said he sees the iPad as an easy way out for the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to put off real teaching of language and sentence structure. Mr. Patchett said the IEP team is tasked with ensuring the child is given the best technology for them to meet their goals. It goes back to each person getting an appropriate evaluation.

V. Report from the Subcommittee to Draft Position Paper on AT Issues, Followed by Discussion, Possible Revisions, and Possible Approval of the Draft Position Paper (For Possible Action)

John Rosenlund, Subcommittee Chairperson

The Subcommittee met three times (August 12, October 14 and November 6, 2014) to put together a draft Position Paper on AT issues in Nevada to bring to the full council for approval to distribute to appropriate individuals in government and private agencies. Mr. Patchett said the Subcommittee needs to meet once more to put the pieces together into a final draft. A meeting will be scheduled prior to the next full council meeting.

VI. Discussion and Possible Recommendations on Closing the Gaps in Service to Persons with Sensory Impairments (For Possible Action)

Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Rosenlund clarified the gap being discussed as people who don't qualify for the Older Blind Program or don't have a vocational goal. Ms. Merrill added the Rehabilitation Division calls them, "non-vocationally motivated between 22 and 55 years of age." Mr. Rosenlund said there are no skills training available for that age group.

Mr. Patchett, who is also a member of the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD), said the CSPD presented to the Legislative Interim Committee a process to address that group. There was talk about funding and what services are needed. ADSD and the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) held a number of town hall meetings throughout the State soliciting information from the public on what is needed. It was thought there was going to be funding for this, however, the budget from the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) did not include it. The CSPD sent a letter to Governor Sandoval asking for funding. Independent Living (IL) services are also being considered for this.

Mr. Youngs asked if it was known why it was not included in the budget. Mr. Patchett said they have not received a good answer to that question, but are still pursuing one.

Mr. Rosenlund said the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is also working on this issue having included it in their revised Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

Mr. Patchett suggested having members from each of these groups (AT Council, CSPD, SILC) get together to work collaboratively on this.

Mr. Kearns said there are 59,000 blind persons in the State and there are no services in Northern Nevada, no AT training. He said this council needs to be a strong voice pushing this issue forward.

Mr. Rosenlund noted a big part of the services needed is rehabilitation.

Ms. Belcove-Shalin asked if there was any discussion at the AT Act Conference specific to traumatic brain injury. Mr. Rosenlund said no. Mr. Youngs said it's similar to other disabilities that require AT and they are taken as part of those with cognitive issues. Mr. Rosenlund said training for people with brain injuries can be provided through our partners at Easter Seals and UNR. Mr. Youngs added that with any disability, there's a wide variety of issues that affect each person and before training is implemented, a thorough assessment needs to be done.

VII. Discussion and Possible Determination of Issues and Agenda Items to be Considered or Deliberated at Next Meeting (For Possible Action)
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Patchett said an update from the Position Paper Subcommittee would be needed.

Mr. Patchett said since the Legislative Session begins in February, a regular item to update members on legislative issues related to AT would be beneficial.

Mr. Youngs said members and interested parties of the CSPD and AT Council should receive agendas and information for each other's meetings. He suggested a representative from each group attend the other's meetings as a liaison and to provide updates on council issues if necessary. Mr. Rosenlund noted the NDALC tracks legislative issues and perhaps someone from there could attend meetings and provide updates. Ms. Belcove-Shalin said Jack Mayes, Executive Director of NADLC, does keep track of legislation and he should be contacted regarding this. Mr. Rosenlund added that Jon Sasser, member of the CSPD does the same. Mr. Rosenlund volunteered to contact Mr. Mayes and Mr. Sasser in order to get information on legislative issues related to AT to update the Council.

Mr. Youngs asked Mr. Sauer if he would like an agenda item to discuss IEP issues in school districts. He said yes, but would like to talk to other about it. Mr. Patchett said he will speak with Mr. Sauer, and suggested contacting someone from Nevada PEP also.

Mr. Kearns suggested an item on assessability of State websites.

- VIII. Determine Meeting Dates for 2015 – Proposed: February 10, April 14, June 9, August 11, October 13, December 8 (For Possible Action)
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

The full committee tentatively scheduled the meeting dates for 2015, confirming February 10, 2015, at 1 p.m. The remaining dates will be considered at future meetings.

The Subcommittee will meet again on January 8, 2015, at 1 p.m.

- IX. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item)

Mr. Sauer asked if the AT Council's facebook page is for members only or open to anyone. Mr. Rosenlund said UNR voluntarily put the page up and it is open to anyone. Mr. Youngs added they would like to see parents talking back and forth about IEP issues

Ms. Aizenman asked if it would come to the point where legal counsel would be necessary if money and services are not provided for the blind and visually impaired between 22 and 55 years of age. Mr. Youngs said that could be an agenda item at a future meeting.

Mr. Youngs said he and George McKinlay made a presentation to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (ERC) last month about the inaccessibility of State websites. Mr. Youngs said he tried to find a contact person and grievance process for the State but was unable to do so, being told he had to contact each agency individually. Mr. Youngs said the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint process requires the name of a contact person and the grievance process be posted where it can be easily found. The chair of the ERC suggested they get all the information together and present it to the Governor, then have a Bill Draft Request prepared. Mr. Youngs said that any help from Council members or anyone else would be beneficial. Mr. Patchett suggested he contact the Governor's staff member assigned to technology issues. Mr. Youngs ended by noting accessibility is required by the ADA under Title II. Mr. Rosenlund suggested looking at what other states have done, specifically Oklahoma, where their AT coordinator, Linda Jaco, has made many presentations on how they accomplished it. Mr. Youngs said that should be an agenda item at a future meeting.

- X. Adjournment (For Possible Action)
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Youngs adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

NOTE: Items may be considered out of order. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the

agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based upon viewpoint.

Current Assistive Technology Council Members

Scott Youngs (Chairperson), Frida Aizenman, Hentjie Apag, Havander Davis, Victoria Essner, Thomas Kearns, Jesse Leaman, Mechelle Merrill, Brian Patchett, John Rosenlund, Scott Sauer, Rena Smith

NOTE: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Diane Scully at (775) 687-0551 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at dmscully@adsd.nv.gov. Supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Road, #D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Diane Scully at (775) 687-0551 or by email at dmscully@adsd.nv.gov.

Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:

1. Aging and Disability Services Division, Carson City Office, 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706
 2. Aging and Disability Services Division, Las Vegas Office, 1860 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104
 3. Aging and Disability Services Division, Reno Office, 445 Apple Street, Suite 104, Reno, NV 89502
 4. Aging and Disability Services Division, Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104 Elko, NV 89801
 5. Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 2950 S. Rainbow Blvd., #220, N. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
 6. Disability Resources, 50 E. Greg St Suite 102, Sparks, NV 89431
 7. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 N. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701
 8. Desert Regional Center, 1391 So. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
 9. Sierra Regional Center, 605 South 21st St., Reno, NV 89431
 10. Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, 1875 Plumas St., #1, Reno, NV 89509
 11. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
 12. Department of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
 13. Bureau of Vocational Rehab, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502
- Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <http://www.adsd.nv.gov/> and <https://notice.nv.gov>

Summary of the 2014 AT Act Programs Conference held July 14-15th

The conference was co-hosted by the Association of AT Act Programs (ATAP), the Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance (CATADA) and the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Catalyst Project. It was an ambitious and busy conference with the three entities coordinating multiple sessions for AT Directors, staff, as well as Alternative Finance Programs.

As the Director of the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative I represented our AT Act program. In summary attendees received national updates, changes in federal reporting for the AT Act programs, & a whole lot of discussion regarding the recent reauthorization of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA).

The reauthorization of WIOA passed through Congress just days before the conference and would be signed by President Obama days after the conference ended. Much of the talk that occurred was in speculation of what is to come in the future for AT Act programs as well as other programs under the Rehabilitation Act. With the reauthorization of WIOA the AT Act programs will move under the Department of Health and Human Service's Administration for Community Living (ACL). There was and still is some uncertainty of how everything will work and how it is going to look as these programs are merged.

The RESNA Catalyst Program has posted the power point presentations that were available at the following link <http://resnaprojects.org/statewide/conference/2014at.html>. Below is my summary of the sessions that I participated.

Summary :

- Changes to Rehabilitation Services Administrations form RSA572 which is the annual AT report. Starting 10/1/14 RSA will require changes in data collection for AT Act programs. Data under IT/Telecom will move to the Training section of the report however performance measure surveys will have performance measure data will still need to be collected.
- A CATADA web portal has been made available for creating an annual report for each state. Also revised the data collection feature that is available to AT Act programs. As part of a technical assistance award it is not certain if this will be made available in future years or supported. Need to look at the portal and see if it would be a benefit to the Nevada AT Collaborative.
- Top 3 opportunities for providing IT/Telecom services through state AT programs. Primarily revolves around state & local government and post secondary education maintaining 508 compliance.
- Assistive Technology and Medicaid. Review of Medicaid structure and ways to explore each state and/or assistance finding data. The presentation was three parts with a lot of information primarily geared towards how someone could determine what services are provided within their state. Given that states "Can and May" chose many different options to fit their population, structure, and resources it makes it a challenge to navigate. The best overview I can provided is that by gaining a greater understanding of what plan your state has made it will better enable

you to find out what services are available. By understanding what options your state has chosen and services are being provided would also enable the person to advocate for changes. Part 1 (pgs 1-36 of the power point) by Mary Sowers with the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services provided a general overview of Medicaid and the HCBS waivers. Each State has implemented Medicaid within the options the State has chosen to and was not specific to each state. Great information for advocates trying to understand your state and gain a better understanding of the system as a whole. Part 2 (pgs 37-68) by Damon Terzaghi of the National Association of State United for Aging and Disabilities is primarily statistical. Although examples of services available in some states were provided the statistical data provides little to assistance to better navigate your States Medicaid system. Part 3 (pgs 69-78) by Mary Exline of Missouri Assistive Technology overviewed services possible through HCBS waivers and referenced services specific in several states.

- Q&A with Rehabilitation Services Administration staff working with the AT Act programs. Data collection system will remain for now for both the RSA572 & RSA662. DHHS does not have a data collection system at this time. Cannot determine what will take place of the next year while the AT Act programs transition to the Administration for Community Living (ACL).
- Sessions on the following were attended: AT assessments & accessibility, Applications for smart devices, changing landscape for blind/low vision AT (use of smart technology with built in accessibility), example of creating program income as done in WA state by providing services for Vocational Rehab, health insurance coverage of AT.
- Presentation by Karl Cooper with the American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) provided an update on the Affordable Care Act implementation and AAHD's work on the National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative. Website www.nationaldisabilitynavigator.com includes State pages and resources listed for each State. Have Disability Guide available and fact sheets. Anyone can sign up for updates at the site. Karl Cooper Esq. kcooper@aaahd.us for contact. Like most updates on the ACA, it is evolving as the ACA is being implemented throughout the nation.
- Presentation by Rebecca Bond, Chief of the Disability Rights Section (DRS) of the Dept of Justice. Steps are being taken to improve accessibility to the web.
- Presentation by Aaron Bishop, Commissioner for the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). Merging of programs into DHHS and the creation of the Administration for Community Living. They get it; Aging and Disability have different views and languages about living in the community and services needed. Challenges ahead but very optimistic. Little to know at this time about what the next step will be with the changes and merging of AT, IL, and Workforce into the agency.